

2008

W I S C O N S I N

Migratory Bird Regulations



2008 Waterfowl Stamp design by Brian Kuether

This year's state waterfowl stamp features the canvasback duck. The waterfowl stamps you purchase assist with the development and maintenance of wetland habitats that benefit waterfowl.

Your support is crucial. Thank you.

Support Ethical Responsible Hunting
Report Violations

Call 1-800-Tip-WDNR (1-800-847-9367)

or #367 from your cell phone (free for U.S. Cellular customers)

Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential

(This is not an information number)

le.hotline@wisconsin.gov



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PUB-WM-010 2008

Dear Migratory Game Bird Hunter,

As I write this letter, it is a beautiful Wisconsin August day. Soon cooler temperatures and shorter days will cause ducks to flock up and waterfowl hunters to get out the decoys. As part of their preparation, waterfowl hunters often read about spring breeding conditions and fall flight projections. While breeding success is important to fall numbers, your hunting experience may have little to do with spring conditions. Three factors are important to the number of waterfowl you see this fall; fall water conditions, weather patterns and the time you spend scouting. The best waterfowl hunters are those who spend time scouting locations before and during the season. Plan and evaluate your waterfowling experience with these factors:

- 2008 WI breeding duck numbers were good in May/June. Much of our fall waterfowl harvest comes from WI breeding and production is expected to be good.
- Habitat in Canada and the US prairies was drier than last year and duck breeding numbers were mixed.
- Despite opposition by the states in the Mississippi Flyway, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) delivered a closed canvasback season and a reduced scaup season (40 days with a 1 bird bag and 20 days with a 2 bird bag). **It will be very important this year to be sure of the duck species before you shoot!**
- **Please look at these websites and spend time in the marsh to improve your duck ID:**
 - www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/duckdist/index.htm
 - www.ducks.org/hunting/waterfowlgallery.aspx
- After years of work among biologists from the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways and the USFWS we have determined that wood ducks may be able to sustain an increased daily bag limit from 2 to 3. This increase will be implemented in 2008 and harvest will be monitored to measure impact.
- In 2008, Canada goose numbers were good in Ontario and average in WI.
- WI has the 2nd most waterfowl hunters in the nation so we must provide an extra level of courtesy to one another in order for us to all enjoy a safe and positive hunting experience.
- We have a great diversity of waterfowl hunting opportunities in Wisconsin. Go out and enjoy!

Thank you to all of the involved and dedicated waterfowl hunters and organizations that are involved in working with the Department each year on waterfowl management and habitat restoration. Wisconsin is a great waterfowl hunting state and one of the reasons is your enthusiasm and dedication to the sport.

I look forward to seeing you in the marsh this fall. Have a safe and enjoyable season.

Kent Van Horn
Migratory Game Bird Ecologist

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About the Cover: Brian Kuether was the 2008 winner of the state Waterfowl Stamp Contest with this painting of canvasback ducks. The contest is an annual event open to Wisconsin artists beginning in mid-May. Details may be obtained by writing Bureau of Wildlife Management, DNR, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.



Wisconsin Ducks Unlimited
N10720 Howard Drive
Fox Lake, WI 53933
1-800-45-DUCKS

The content of this brochure was prepared by the Department of Natural Resources.

What's New

- ★ The canvasback hunting season is closed in 2008.
- ★ The scaup season daily bag limit has been reduced to 1 scaup per day **except** for a 20 day period in which the daily bag limit is 2. This 20 day period differs between the northern and southern duck zones. See pages 14 and 15 for details.
- ★ The wood duck daily bag limit has increased to 3 ducks.
- ★ The Horicon Zone Canada Goose hunting periods have been simplified to only 2 periods with more hunting days per period. See page 21.
- ★ Non-toxic shot is required for mourning doves on all DNR-controlled lands.
- ★ The mourning dove season will be extended by 10 days and end on Nov. 9.
- ★ The federal migratory bird stamp is now available for purchase at all license agents and DNR Service Centers. Please see page 5 for details.

2008 Youth Waterfowl Hunt—Sept. 20 & 21

Who is eligible?

Only persons age 12–15 may hunt waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots, moorhens and mergansers). All hunters must be accompanied by an adult chaperone age 18 years or older. The adult may not accompany more than two youth hunters. The adult may not hunt ducks, however, an adult may hunt geese in the Exterior Zone or the Horicon or Collins Zone if they possess the appropriate Canada goose permit.

What type of licenses are needed?

Successful completion of a Wisconsin Hunter Education Course (or similar hunter education course from another state, province or country) and Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration is required (see page 5). All license and stamp requirements are waived for eligible youth waterfowl hunters except the Canada goose hunting permit.

What other rules apply?

All other regulations including hunting hours and daily bag limits listed in this pamphlet will apply.

Does this youth hunt include goose hunting?

Yes. The daily bag limit for all zones on Sept. 20 & 21 is 2 geese. In the Exterior Zone, a youth must purchase and possess an Exterior zone goose permit and must report their harvest (page 24). In the Horicon and Collins zones, a youth possessing a valid tag for any time period within that zone may hunt geese within the zone where the tag is valid.

License Information

- **License requirement.** A valid license for hunting Small Game is required to hunt **all** migratory game birds (ducks, geese, brant, woodcock, mourning dove, coots, rails, snipe or moorhens) in Wisconsin. You may purchase licenses from any license agent by phone at 1-877-WI-LICENSE, or on the Internet at dnr.wi.gov (\$3 handling fee). See license options on page 6.
- Persons born on or after January 1, 1973, must have a Hunter Education certificate to purchase any hunting license.
- First time Wisconsin Hunter Education graduates may use their certificate in place of a Small Game License and state waterfowl stamp, regardless of their age, during the year their certificate was issued.
- Person younger than 12 years old may not hunt with a firearm or bow or purchase a hunting license. Persons age 12 and 13 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian (18 years or older) while hunting.
- **Stamp requirement.** Any person 16 years of age or older who wishes to hunt *ducks, geese and brant* must possess both a **2008 Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp** privilege noted on the person's valid hunting license **AND** a **2008 Federal Migratory Bird Stamp**. *Note: neither of these stamps is required for hunting coot, moorhen, rail, mourning dove or woodcock.*
 1. The 2008 Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp (\$7) is available at DNR Service Centers and license agents.
 2. The 2008 Federal Migratory Bird Stamp can be purchased for \$15 at U.S. Post Offices, some U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices and online at www.fws.gov. **New in 2008**, the Federal Migratory Bird Stamp may be purchased at license agents and DNR Service Centers for \$17.50. This stamp will not be available via the DNR phone service or website. If purchased at a license agent or service center, the hunter will receive a temporary stamp valid for 45 days, and will be mailed the actual stamp within 45 days.
- **Canada Goose Permit requirement.** Required by everyone hunting Canada geese in Wisconsin. This permit is valid for only one zone as shown on the permit. (\$3 application fee for early Canada goose season and regular season Exterior zone, Horicon or Collins zone permits).
- **Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration requirement.** (FREE) Required annually by everyone hunting any species of migratory game birds to estimate the total harvest for the year. Your registration puts you on a national list of hunters and you may receive a log to record your harvest. Even if you registered in 2007, you will need to register again in 2008. You can register when purchasing your license or at any time prior to hunting migratory game birds.

- **Resident Licenses:** Small Game—\$18; Jr. Small Game (ages 12-17)—\$9; Sr. Citizen Small Game (age 65 or older)—\$9; Sports—\$60; Jr. Sports—\$35; Conservation Patron—\$165 and Jr. Patron—\$75 (Patron licenses include a State Waterfowl Stamp, but do not include a Federal Migratory Bird Stamp).
- **Nonresident Licenses:** Small Game—\$85; Five-day Small Game—\$55; Patron—\$600; Jr. Patron—\$77; Sports—\$275; Jr. Sports—\$36.
- **Senior Citizen Recreation Card:** (No longer offered): Existing cards are still valid as long as the holder remains a Wisconsin resident. Card holders must purchase the Federal Migratory Bird Stamp annually; the Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp privilege is not required. Card holders must be HIP registered annually (page 5).
- **Armed Forces members** are entitled to certain license privileges. Please see the *2008 Small Game Regulations* for more details.
- **License/permit/tag use:** It is illegal to allow someone else to use *or carry* your license, permit, tag or stamp, or for you to use *or carry* some other person's license, permit, tag or stamp while hunting.

State and Federal Migratory Game Bird Restrictions

Migratory game birds include: ducks, geese, brant, rails, mourning dove, woodcock, coots, moorhens and snipe. The restrictions which apply include all those listed in the *2008 Small Game Hunting Regulations* (separate pamphlet) plus the following: **The following rules are both State (S) and Federal (F) unless specifically noted.**

- **Dual violation:** A violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.
- **Caution:** More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges and federal waterfowl production areas open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Building, Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, MN 55111-4056. Telephone: (612) 713-5458. See page 11 for special non-toxic shot requirements. It is the hunter's responsibility to know what rules apply.

While pursuing migratory game birds, it is illegal to:

- **Hours:** Hunt before or after established hunting hours (pages 29–31).
- **Closed season:** Take migratory game birds during the closed season.
- **Daily bag limits:** Take or attempt to take, in any one day, more than one daily bag limit. **Group bagging for migratory game birds is not permitted.**
- **Field possession limit:** Possess more than one daily bag limit while at or between the place killed and the person's temporary or permanent abode.

Methods

1. Open Water (S)

“Open water” means any water beyond a natural growth of vegetation rooted to the bottom and extending above the water surface of such height as to offer whole or partial concealment to the hunter. Dead stumps and dead trees in the water do not constitute a natural growth of vegetation.

- **Open Water Hunting:** No person may hunt waterfowl in open water from, or with the aid of, any blind including any boat, canoe, raft, contrivance, or similar device except from:

1. **Mississippi River:** Blinds in any of the waters of the Mississippi River and adjoining counties provided the blinds are securely anchored and located not more than 100 feet from any shoreline including islands. Blinds in open water in the Lake Pepin portions of the Mississippi River* are permitted regardless of the distance from shore provided the blinds are securely anchored.

**New federal laws do not allow hunting in portions of Grant County beyond 100 ft. from shore. For more information contact the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge at (507) 452-4232 or visit fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/.*

2. **Big Green Lake and Great Lakes area:** Blinds in open waters of Big Green Lake in Green Lake County, Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and Green Bay if beyond 500 feet of any lake or bay shoreline. Blinds do not have to be anchored in these areas.
3. **Lake Winnebago and Petenwell Flowage:** Blinds in open waters of Lake Winnebago and Petenwell flowage (north of state highway 21 and south of state highway 73) if located more than 1,000 feet from any shoreline, including islands, provided blinds are securely anchored.

Note: *You may hunt in any open water area provided you are standing on the bottom without the aid of a blind. Blinds include, but are not limited to, any boat, canoe, raft or similar device that provides any concealment for the hunter. In areas where open water blinds are legal, (see above) they shall be removed at the close of hunting hours each day.*

- **Jump Shooting:** The open water restrictions are not intended to prohibit legal jump shooting activities. It is legal to hunt by non-motorized boat in streams. However, on larger bodies of water, where shooting shore to shore is not possible, the hunter must keep a portion of the boat in natural vegetation rooted to the bottom and offering concealment. Skirting the edge of rivers and lakes in this manner is considered legal.

2. Structures, Boats and Vehicles

While pursuing migratory game birds, it is illegal to:

- **Structures (S):** Hunt from any pier, dam, dock, breakwater or similar artificial structure. Class A disabled hunting permit holders are exempt.
- **Sink box:** Hunt from a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- **Waterfowl blind (S):** Establish a waterfowl blind on state property, including the bed of any navigable lake, prior to 7 days before the waterfowl season or leave it established beyond 7 days after the close of the waterfowl season. No person may maintain, occupy or use any blind left on state property during the season unless the owner's name, address and DNR customer ID number in the English language and in lettering one inch square or larger is affixed permanently to the blind and shall be readily visible and legible at all times. **Remember:** Placement of waterfowl blinds on public land does not restrict others from using or hunting on the public land where the blind is located.
- **Moving boats:** Hunt or shoot from any *moving* boat other than those propelled by paddle, oars or pole. Motorboats and sailboats must have their motors completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefore ceased before loading or discharging a firearm.
- **Vehicle use:** Take migratory game birds from, or with the aid or use of, any vehicle (does not include boats) except by qualified disabled persons under DNR permit. Federal rules prohibit taking migratory game birds from any motor vehicle, except paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs.
- **Hazing:** Use in any manner any air, water, or motor-driven land conveyance for the purposes of concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up any migratory game bird to put them in the range of hunters.

3. Devices

While pursuing migratory game birds, it is illegal to:

- **Decoys:** Hunt with decoys which are:
 1. Placed beyond 200 feet from the cover in which the hunter is located (S).
 2. Placed in the water prior to one hour before the opening of waterfowl hunting time (S).
 3. Left in the water more than 20 minutes after the close of waterfowl hunting time (S).
 4. Left in the water unattended. *Note: You may leave decoys unattended on dry land (S).*

5. Live, regardless of distance from the hunter. Note: All live, tame, or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of migratory wild waterfowl.
- **Bird calls:** Hunt **with** or **while in possession** of electronic bird calls or recordings or imitations thereof while hunting waterfowl.

4. Guns and Ammunition

While pursuing migratory game birds, it is illegal to:

- **Shotguns:** Hunt with anything other than a shotgun fired from the shoulder, bow and arrow, or by falconry. Persons possessing Class A or C disabled or crossbow hunting permits and resident hunters 65 years of age or older with a valid archery or small game license may use a crossbow. Taking migratory game birds with a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun with a bore larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance is illegal.
- **Shotgun capacity:** Hunt with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- **Shot type:** Hunt with or while in possession of any type of lead or toxic shot when hunting ducks, geese, brant, snipe, rails, coots and moorhens. **New in 2008**, hunters are required to use nontoxic shot while hunting mourning doves on DNR managed land. See page 11 for types of non-toxic shot. This means muzzleloaders must also use non-toxic shot. Only non-toxic sizes BB, BBB, T, or smaller are legal. Size F shot is illegal in Wisconsin.

Only non-toxic shot may be possessed or used for hunting migratory and upland game species on the Horicon and Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges (UMRWNFR) and on federally owned Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs).

- Shoot a firearm within 100 yards of a building devoted to human occupancy while on lands of another without permission of the owner or occupant.
- **Firearms transport (S):** Carry in or on a motor-driven boat while the motor is running, any firearm or bow unless such firearm is unloaded or such bow is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.
- Hunt from any road including their respective rights-of-way. *Note: Railroad rights-of-way are private property and trespassing is prohibited unless permission is granted by the owner.*

5. Baiting

While pursuing migratory game birds, it is illegal to:

Hunt waterfowl, coots or mourning doves by the method or aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited, **except the following practices are legal:**

- Hunting over standing crops or flooded standing crops; standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; croplands flooded after harvest; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, a normal agricultural harvest or post-harvest manipulation, or a normal soil stabilization practice.
- Hunting from standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

The regulations for hunting waterfowl and coot are more restrictive than for hunting mourning doves. In addition to legal methods listed above, it is legal to hunt **mourning doves** over the following areas:

- Lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural practices in addition to normal planting, normal harvesting, and normal post-harvest manipulation.
- Manipulated agricultural crops or wildlife food plots provided these crops were planted in a manner consistent with Extension Service guidelines for planting a crop. Manipulation **may not** include the distributing or scattering of seeds, grains, or other feed after the seed or grain had been removed from or stored on the field where grown after it was harvested.

Note: Manipulation of crops or natural vegetation **prior** to harvest by mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatment is **legal** for hunting **MOURNING DOVES**, but is **NOT LEGAL** for hunting other migratory bird species, not even if the purpose of the manipulation was for hunting mourning doves. The only time it is legal to hunt other species which are being attracted to manipulated crop lands or food plots is when the manipulation occurs **AFTER** the field has been subject to a normal harvest and removal of grain.

For further information including definitions, details and examples, see the Wisconsin Baiting and Feeding rules publications available on the Wisconsin DNR web site at: dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/bait.htm or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service web site: www.fws.gov/le/hunt/fish/waterfowl_baiting.htm, or www.fws.gov/le/hunt/fish/dovebaiting.htm, for a complete set of Federal & State Waterfowl & Dove Baiting regulations.

Non-toxic Shot Type	Percent Composition by Weight
Bismuth-Tin	97% bismuth, 3% tin
Iron (Steel)	iron and carbon
Iron-Tungsten	any proportion of tungsten and $\geq 1\%$ iron
Iron-Tungsten-Nickel	$\geq 1\%$ iron, any proportion of tungsten, up to 40% nickel
Tungsten-Bronze (Two Types)	51.1% tungsten, 44.4% copper, 3.9% tin, 0.6% iron and 60% tungsten, 35.1% copper, 3.9% tin, 1% iron
Tungsten-Iron-Copper-Nickel	40-76% tungsten, 10-37% iron, 9-16% copper, 5-7% nickel
Tungsten-Matrix	95.9% tungsten, 4.1% polymer
Tungsten-Polymer	95.5% tungsten, 4.5% Nylon 6 or 11
Tungsten-Tin-Iron	any proportions of tungsten and tin, $\geq 1\%$ iron
Tungsten-Tin-Bismuth	any proportions of tungsten, tin, and bismuth
Tungsten-Tin-Iron-Nickel	65% tungsten, 21.8% tin, 10.4% iron, 2.8% nickel

Remember the Four Rules of Firearm Safety

1. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
2. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
3. Be sure of your target and beyond.
4. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until you're ready to shoot.

Possession Restrictions

- **Retrieval:** No person may kill or cripple any game bird without making every reasonable effort to retrieve such bird. This should be done without delay to prevent loss of the bird. Crippled birds should be immediately pursued.
- **Open water retrieval:** Crippled birds which fall or move into open water should be immediately pursued and a hunter may shoot crippled birds from a boat propelled by paddle, oars or pole. A shotgun may be uncased but may not be loaded or discharged while in a boat with the motor running and until all forward motion from the motor has ceased.

Pick up litter, including spent shotgun shells, and keep your hunting grounds looking natural!

Possession Restrictions, cont.

- **Tagging:** No person may give, put, or leave any migratory game birds (including mourning doves) at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:
 1. The hunter's signature.
 2. The hunter's address.
 3. The total number of birds involved, by species.
 4. The dates such birds were killed.

No person or business may receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged and a record of such receipt is kept by the person or business.

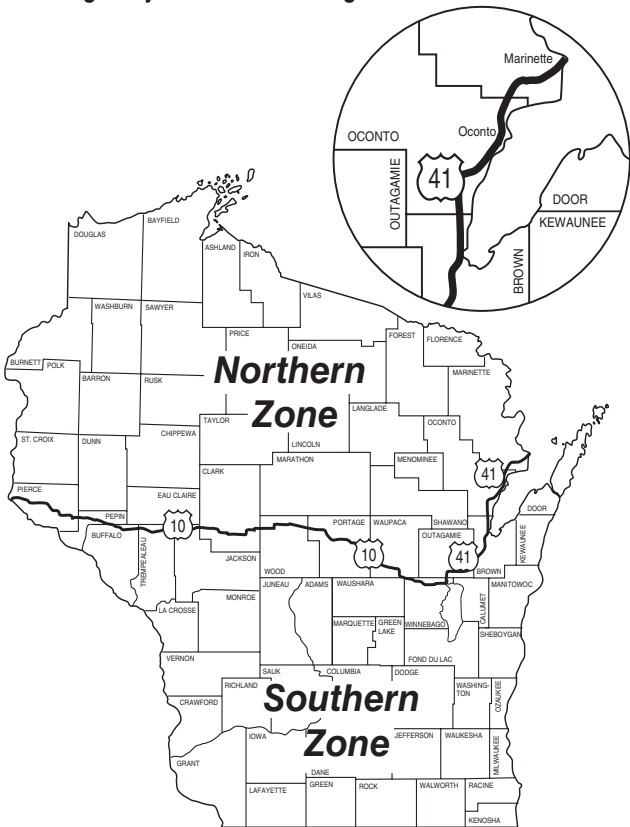
- **Possession of live birds:** Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.
- **Importation:** For information regarding the importation of migratory game birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. A copy can be obtained from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service address shown below:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, MN 55111-4056
(612) 713-5458

- **Shipment:** No person may ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with the:
 1. Name and address of the person sending the birds.
 2. Name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent.
 3. Number of birds, by species, contained in the package.
- **Transportation:** Migratory game birds may be field dressed before they are transported from the field. However, the head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds while in the field or being transported from the field *to* the person's permanent abode. *Note:* This includes birds being transported between a hunting cabin, camp, motel or other temporary abode *to* the person's permanent abode or preservation facility.

**Look for and report bands on ducks, geese, and doves.
See page 28 for details on bird bands.**

2008 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Zones





Northern Zone

2008 Migratory Bird Seasons (see detailed map on page 13)

Normal shooting hours (pages 29–31) apply except on Sept. 27 when hunting begins at 9:00 a.m.

All Wild Ducks	Sept. 27 (9:00 a.m.)–Nov. 25	Daily bag limit: 6 ducks to include not more than 4 mallards of which only 1 may be a hen, 2 redheads, 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail and 1 black duck. The daily bag limit for scaup is 1 except for Oct. 18–Nov. 6 when the daily bag limit is 2. The canvashack season is closed.		
		Season Length	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Mergansers		Same as wild ducks. Daily bag may not include more than 2 hooded mergansers.	5	10
Coot and Moorhen		Same as wild ducks.	15	30
Sora and Virginia Rails		Same as wild ducks.	25	25
Snipe		Same as wild ducks.	8	16
Woodcock		September 20–November 3	3	6
Mourning Doves		September 1–November 9	15	30



Southern Zone

2008 Migratory Bird Seasons (see detailed map on page 13)

Normal shooting hours (pages 29–31) apply except on Oct. 4 when hunting begins at 9:00 a.m.

All Wild Ducks	Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)– Oct.12 & Oct. 18–Dec. 7	Daily bag limit: 6 ducks to include not more than 4 mallards of which only 1 may be a hen, 2 redheads, 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail and 1 black duck. The daily bag limit for scaup is 1 except for Nov. 1– Nov. 20 when the daily bag limit is 2. The canvasback season is closed.	Season Length		Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
	Mergansers		Same as wild ducks. Daily bag may not include more than 2 hooded mergansers.	5	10	
	Coot and Moorhen		Same as wild ducks.	15	30	
	Sora and Virginia Rails		Same as wild ducks.	25	25	
	Snipe		Same as wild ducks.	8	16	
	Woodcock		September 20–November 3	3	6	
	Mourning Doves		September 1–November 9	15	30	

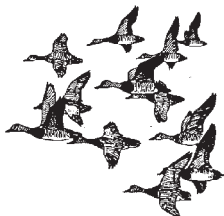
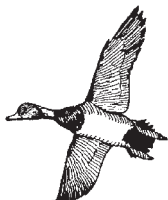
Know the difference!

Redhead

Hen: Brown head,
bluish bill
with white ring



Drake: Red head,
bluish bill
with white ring

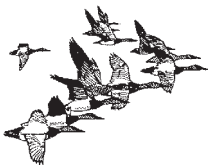


Canvasback

Drake:
Red head,
black bill



Hen:
Brown head,
black bill



Canvasbacks can be distinguished from the more abundant redhead duck by their long, black, wedge-shaped bills and elongated heads.

Visit the following websites for help with duck ID:

- www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/duckdist/index.htm
- www.ducks.org/hunting/waterfowlgallery.aspx

Don't Shoot a Swan!

Trumpeter Swans, a state endangered waterfowl species, have been reintroduced in Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Shooting a Trumpeter Swan may cost you up to \$11,053 in fines and three years revocation of all hunting, fishing and trapping privileges.

Protected Species—Trumpeter Swan and Tundra Swan

- Plumage: all white
- Long neck
- Length: 4 ft.
- Wingspan: 7 ft.
- Weight: 20–30 lbs

Note: Swans in their first year of life appear grey.

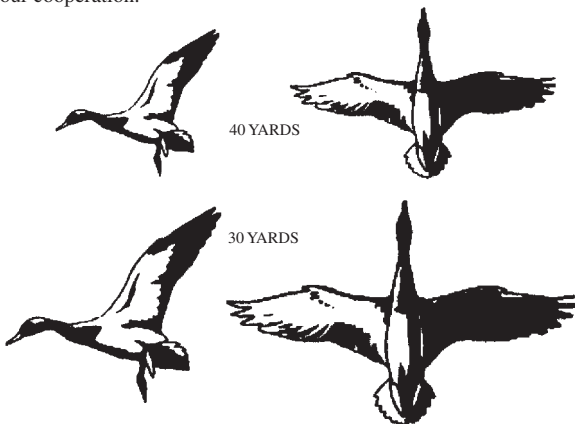
Legal Game Species—Snow Goose

- Plumage: White, with black wing tips
- Short neck
- Length: 1.5 ft.
- Wingspan: 3.5 ft.



Note: Snow goose range is west of Wisconsin, few snow geese migrate through Wisconsin. Be sure of your target.

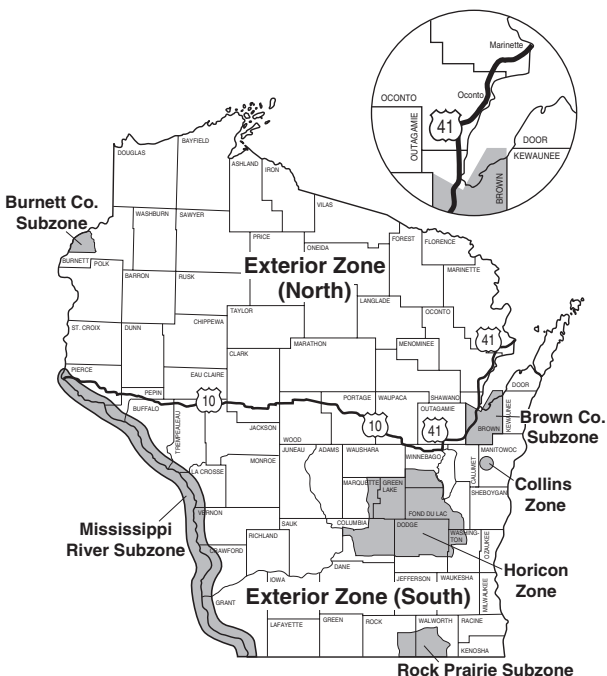
Prevent Crippling: These pictures represent the *actual size* of mallards at the effective range for steel shot. Test yourself continually during the season by holding your gun barrel up against these pictures. Thanks for your cooperation.



Goose Hunting

Canada Goose Management Zones and Subzones

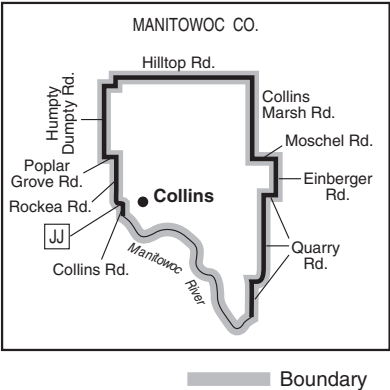
The state is divided into three management zones: Horicon, Collins, and Exterior. To hunt Canada geese in Wisconsin everyone must possess a Canada goose hunting permit which restricts them to one zone. Permits can be obtained by submitting a department application. Exterior Zone hunters may purchase an Exterior Zone permit until the close of the Exterior Zone Canada goose season. Hunters may hunt in only one zone and in the time period indicated on their permit.



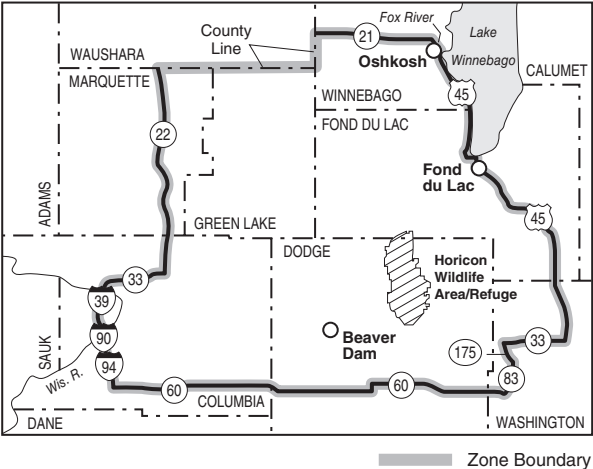
The Exterior Zone includes the following subzones: Brown County, Burnett County, Mississippi River, and Rock Prairie. Only persons having Exterior Zone permits are allowed to hunt Canada geese in these subzones. See pages 19-23 for descriptions of active subzone boundaries and season dates.

2008 Canada Goose Management Zone Boundaries

Collins Zone

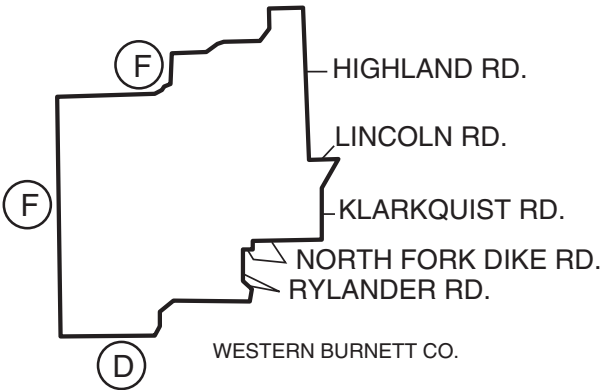


Horicon Zone

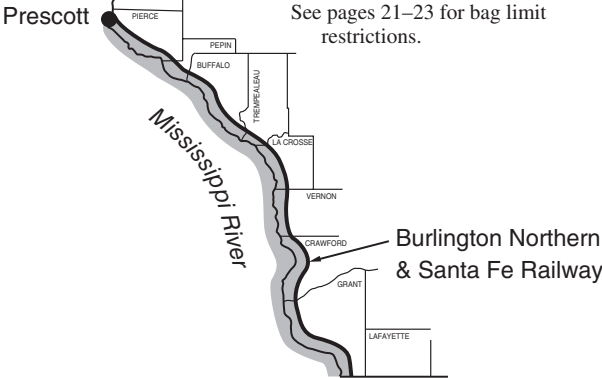


Subzone Seasons (Located within the Exterior Zone)

- *Burnett County*—No open season on Canada geese in the area shown.



-
- *Mississippi River*—
Canada goose season:
Oct. 4 at 9:00 a.m.—Oct. 12 and
Oct.18–Jan. 1



2008 Goose Hunting Seasons

Normal shooting hours (pages 29–31) apply except on September 27 when goose hunting begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Northern Zone and on October 4 when goose hunting begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Southern Zone.

Canada Geese		Season Length	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Horicon Zone	Statewide Early Canada goose season*	Sept. 1–Sept. 15	5	10
	Period 1	Sept. 16–Oct. 3 & Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Nov. 2	2	Equal to the number of carcass tags received by each hunter (6)
	Period 2	Nov. 3–Dec. 16	2	
Collins Zone	Period 1	Sept. 16–Oct. 3 & Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 5	2	
	Period 2	Oct. 6–Oct. 26	2	
	Period 3	Oct. 27–Nov. 21	2	
Exterior Zone	North portion (includes north part of Brown Co. Subzone)	Sept. 20–Sept. 26 & Sept. 27 (9:00 a.m.)–Dec. 13	2	4
	Burnett Co. Subzone	Closed	None	None
	South portion (includes Rock Prairie Subzone & south part of Brown Co. Subzone)	Sept. 20–Oct. 3 & Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 12 & Oct. 18–Dec. 18	2	4
	Mississippi River Subzone	Oct. 4 at 9:00 a.m.–Oct. 12 and Oct. 18–Jan. 1	2	4

* A special permit is required. See the 2008 Early Canada Goose Hunting Regulations for rules and regulations.

continued on next page

2008 Goose Hunting Seasons *continued*

Normal shooting hours (pages 29–31) apply except on September 27 when goose hunting begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Northern Zone and on October 4 when goose hunting begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Southern Zone.

Snow/blue geese, Ross' goose, other geese and Brant except White-fronted geese		Season Length	Daily Bag Limit and Possession Limit
Horicon Zone		Sept. 16–Oct. 3 & Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Dec. 16	Bag limit: 20 white geese and 1 brant. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit for each species.
Collins Zone		Sept. 16–Oct. 3 & Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Nov. 21	
Exterior Zone	North portion (includes Burnett Co. Subzone and north part of Brown Co. Subzone)	Sept. 20–Sept. 26 & Sept. 27 (9:00 a.m.)–Dec. 13	
	South portion (includes Rock Prairie Subzone and south part of Brown Co. Subzone)	Sept. 20–Oct. 3 & Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 12 & Oct. 18–Dec. 18	
	Mississippi River Subzone	Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 12 and Oct. 18–Jan. 1	

White-fronted geese		Season Length	Daily Bag Limit and Possession Limit
Horicon Zone		Sept. 22–Oct. 3 & Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Dec. 16	Bag limit: 1 white-fronted goose. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.
Collins Zone		Sept. 16–Oct. 3 & Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Nov. 21	
Exterior Zone	North portion (includes Burnett Co. Subzone and north part of Brown Co. Subzone)	Sept. 20–Sept. 26 & Sept. 27 (9:00 a.m.)–Dec. 13	
	South portion (includes Rock Prairie Subzone and south part of Brown Co. Subzone)	Sept. 20–Oct. 3 & Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 12 & Oct. 18–Dec. 18	
	Mississippi River Subzone	Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 12 & Oct. 18–Jan. 1	

Note: Horicon Zone landowners and hunters may be eligible for additional tags. See page 25 for details.

Canada Goose Reporting Requirements

Exterior Zone

You must report each harvested Canada goose within 48 hours of the kill by calling 1-800-99-GOOSE (1-800-994-6673). You will receive a confirmation number after each successful report. If you make an error in reporting, please contact the DNR.

Note: Canada goose permit holders and other waterfowl hunters may be mailed a special hunting report. This report must be completed and mailed to DNR. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Permits and tags are not transferable, cannot be reused, altered, or defaced and are only valid for the zone and time period specified on the permit.

Canada Goose Permit Validation

Exterior Zone

When a Canada goose is killed and *before it is carried by hand or transported in any manner*, the hunter who killed the goose must validate their Canada goose hunting permit. Validation is accomplished by slitting or punching out the mark indicating the date of kill. Failure to follow validation procedure makes the possession of the goose illegal and can result in enforcement action.

Canada Goose Tagging Requirement

Collins and Horicon Zones

When a Canada goose is killed and *before it is carried by hand or transported in any manner by any person*, the hunter who killed the goose must:

- Validate the carcass tag by tearing or cutting out notches on the carcass tag. This designates the month, day and time of kill. Failure to follow this validation procedure makes possession of the goose illegal and invalidates the carcass tag.
- Completely attach the tag (utilizing its own adhesive) to the neck or leg of the Canada goose.

Canada Goose Transportation Restrictions

Collins and Horicon Zones

- You may only transport Canada geese in a motor vehicle in such a manner that the tag attached to the Canada goose cannot be handled by any occupant of the vehicle.
- You must keep the tag attached to the Canada goose until it reaches your home and is processed.

Special Restrictions

Placement of decoys or shooting at waterfowl that are within 75 yards of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge boundary is allowed, provided the hunter is at least 75 yards away from the refuge when shooting at any waterfowl.

Agricultural Damage Permits – Horicon Zone

Starting September 16, landowners or leasees with serious crop damage can apply for Canada goose damage hunting permits. They may use 2 Canada goose agricultural damage tags themselves and issue the remaining tags to Horicon Zone Canada goose hunters. The total number of tags available is limited and based on actual goose damage.

Hunter Eligibility: You must possess a Horicon Zone Canada Goose permit to receive additional Canada Goose tags under the damage program.

How to Participate: Contact the USDA Wildlife Services Office in Waupun at 920-324-4454. A recording will explain if agricultural damage goose tags are available and how to obtain and use them.

Restrictions: You may receive up to 2 tags from each landowner participating in the program. *Tags are valid for weekday hunting only.* In addition, you must use your regular Horicon Zone Canada goose tag(s) first if they are valid during the effective dates of the landowner's permit.

Bag Limit: Geese taken under the damage program are part of the daily bag. You may not exceed the daily bag for Canada geese shown on page 21.

Public or Private? How do I know if I'm Trespassing?

- Navigability determines whether a waterway is public or private. Navigable lakes and streams are public waterways.
- A waterway is navigable if it has a bed and banks, and it is possible to float a canoe or other small craft at sometime of the year - even if only during spring floods.
- Because they are public, you may use navigable waters for fishing, hunting, boating, swimming or other recreational activities, provided public access is available, or you have permission of the landowner to cross their property to reach the waterway. Once on a navigable waterway, *as long as you keep your feet wet (remain in the water), you may walk, fish, hunt, swim, or boat in any navigable lake, stream or impoundment.*
- The public may only use the exposed shore area of a stream without the permission of the riparian land owner when it is necessary to exit the water to bypass an obstruction.
- It is not legal to enter uplands or exposed shore areas to retrieve game without permission of the land owner.

Falconry Seasons

The following special statewide seasons are established for Wisconsin licensed falconers:

Species	Dates	Daily Bag	Poss. Limit
Rails, woodcocks, snipe and moorhens	Sept. 1 - Dec. 16	3*	6*
Ducks, mergansers & coots	North		
	Sept. 20–21	3*	6*
	Sept. 27 (9:00 a.m.)–Nov. 25	3*	6*
	Jan. 9–Feb. 22	3*	6*
	South		
	Sept. 20–21	3*	6*
	Oct. 4 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 12	3*	6*
	Oct. 18–Dec. 7	3*	6*
	Jan. 9–Feb. 22	3*	6*
Geese	Same as regular statewide season	*	*

* The total daily bag limit for migratory game birds is three, singly or in aggregate, to include not more than the legal limit for Canada Geese (listed on page 21) in the zone in which you are hunting. The possession limit for migratory game birds is twice the daily bag.

Finding Public Land Open to Hunting

The DNR website provides detailed maps showing public lands in your area. Go to dnr.wi.gov and click on the Hunting link. On the left side of the screen under “Hunting Opportunities” click on Wildlife Recreation Lands to select your region. For even more detailed boundary lines, use the interactive Web Mapping Tool found on that page.

Health Advisory

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has historically tested many wildlife species to detect contaminants that include: pesticides such as DDT, DDE, and dieldrin; industrial chemicals, such as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) or dioxins; and heavy metals, such as mercury, lead, and cadmium.

PCBs primarily pose health risks to human fetuses, infants, and children by slowing growth and development. PCB exposure has also been linked to cancer in adults and other health problems. Health professionals recommend that you limit your exposure to PCBs in your diet as much as possible.

The state Division of Health has issued the following health advice to protect you from exposure to PCBs in waterfowl taken in these areas.

Location	Health Advice
Lower Fox River from Lake Winnebago at Neenah and Menasha downstream, including Little Lake Butte des Morts, to the northeast city limits of Kaukauna Lower Fox River from the DePere Dam to the river's mouth at Green Bay, and lower Green Bay south of a line from Point Sauble west to the west shore of Green Bay	Remove all skin and visible fat before cooking mallard ducks using these waters. Discard drippings or stuffing because they may retain fat that contains PCBs
Sheboygan River from Sheboygan Falls downstream to the river's mouth at Lake Michigan	No one should eat mallard ducks using this water
Sheboygan Harbor	No one should eat lesser scaup (bluebills) using this water
Milwaukee River from Highway 167 (Thiensville) upstream to Lime Kiln Dam at Grafton and Cedar Creek from the Milwaukee River up to Bridge Road in the Village of Cedarburg	No one should eat mallard ducks using this water
Milwaukee Harbor	No one should eat black ducks, mallards, scaup, and ruddy ducks using this water
Waters in the City of Cedarburg	No one should eat Canada geese using these waters

Note: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration standard for PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in poultry is 3 parts per million calculated on a fat basis.

Other Important Information

- **Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) & Aquatic Invasive Species:** To prevent the spread of the VHS virus which affects fish species, **all water** must be drained from boats, boat trailers, and boating equipment immediately after removing from the water, bank or shore of **ALL waters statewide**.

Help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by doing the following to your boat and equipment: Remove plants, animals and mud; drain all water; and rinse with hot water OR allow to dry for at least 5 days. **Wisconsin statutes prohibit placing any boat, boat trailer, or boat equipment in navigable water if there are any aquatic plants attached.**

- **Laws and rules:** This summary of regulations is designed as a service to hunters and is not intended to be a complete digest of all hunting regulations. For specific details, contact the nearest DNR Service Center. Federal regulations relating to migratory game birds are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.
- **Closed areas & refuges:** All such areas on state land are posted with signs which describe the type of hunting or trapping restrictions. Hunters should routinely scout their hunting area for any special sign before going afield. Contact with the local Conservation Warden or Wildlife Biologist is also encouraged. Dead or crippled game may be retrieved by hand without a firearm or with a firearm which is unloaded and enclosed in a proper carrying case or with the aid of a dog from any closed area or refuge unless posted to prohibit public entry.
- **Bird bands:** Should you obtain a bird band, call 1-800-327-BAND or visit www.reportband.gov to report the date and location of recovery. You may also flatten the band and tape it to a 3x5 postcard or simply write the number on a 3x5 postcard. Add the date and location of recovery, your name and address, and mail the card to:

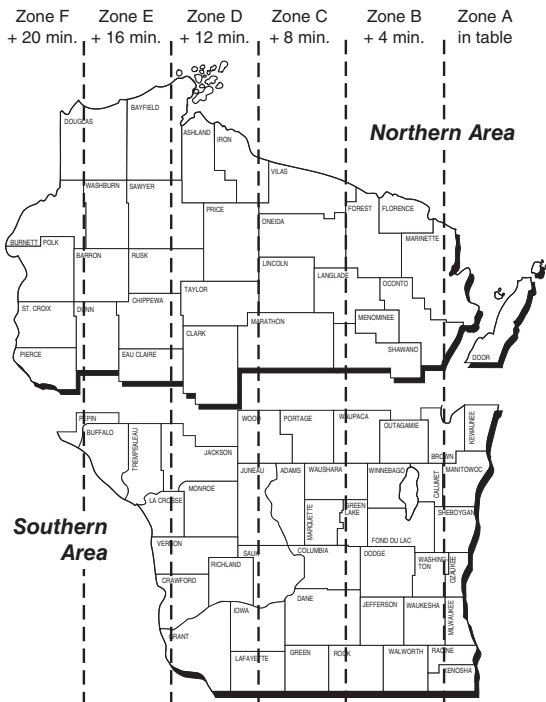
Bird Banding Laboratory
12100 Beech Forest Rd.
Laurel, Maryland 20708.

- **Boating:** Be sure you are properly equipped while hunting with the aid of a boat. Ask for a boating regulation pamphlet at your local DNR office or visit the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov for more information.
- **Vehicle Restrictions:** On federal waterfowl production areas, motorized vehicles are prohibited. Vehicles include, but are not limited to, snowmobiles, trail bikes, all terrain vehicles and motor boats.

Hunting Hours

- Hunting hours for all migratory game birds are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. These hours are shown in the tables on pages 30 and 31.
- Hunting hour zones are established for hunting migratory game birds as shown on the zone map. Actual hunting hours for *Zone A* are shown on pages 30 and 31.
- To establish the opening and closing times for any day in another zone, first determine if you are hunting in the Northern or Southern area.
- Add the minutes shown for the zone in which you are hunting to the open and closing times listed in either the Northern or Southern Zone A hunting hours table.

Zone Map



2008 Northern Waterfowl Hunting Hours—Zone A Table

	Sept. 2008		Oct. 2008		Nov. 2008		Dec. 2008		Jan. 2009		
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	Date
1	5:42	7:27	6:19	6:29	7:01	5:36	6:41	4:08	7:01	4:17	1
2	5:43	7:25	6:20	6:27	6:02	4:35	6:42	4:07	7:01	4:18	2
3	5:44	7:23	6:22	6:26	6:04	4:33	6:43	4:07	7:01	4:19	3
4	5:46	7:21	6:23★	6:24	6:05	4:32	6:44	4:07	7:01	4:20	4
5	5:47	7:20	6:24	6:22	6:06	4:31	6:45	4:06	7:01	4:21	5
6	5:48	7:18	6:25	6:20	6:08	4:29	6:46	4:06	7:00	4:22	6
7	5:49	7:16	6:27	6:18	6:09	4:28	6:47	4:06	7:00	4:23	7
8	5:50	7:14	6:28	6:16	6:11	4:27	6:48	4:06	7:00	4:24	8
9	5:52	7:12	6:29	6:14	6:12	4:26	6:49	4:06	7:00	4:25	9
10	5:53	7:10	6:31	6:13	6:13	4:24	6:50	4:06	6:59	4:27	10
11	5:54	7:08	6:32	6:11	6:15	4:23	6:51	4:06	6:59	4:28	11
12	5:55	7:06	6:33	6:09	6:16	4:22	6:52	4:06	6:58	4:29	12
13	5:57	7:04	6:35	6:07	6:18	4:21	6:53	4:06	6:58	4:30	13
14	5:58	7:02	6:36	6:05	6:19	4:20	6:54	4:06	6:57	4:32	14
15	5:59	7:00	6:37	6:04	6:20	4:19	6:54	4:07	6:57	4:33	15
16	6:00	6:58	6:39	6:02	6:22	4:18	6:55	4:07	6:56	4:34	16
17	6:01	6:56	6:40	6:00	6:23	4:17	6:56	4:07	6:56	4:36	17
18	6:03	6:55	6:41	5:58	6:24	4:16	6:56	4:08	6:55	4:37	18
19	6:04	6:53	6:43	5:57	6:26	4:15	6:57	4:08	6:54	4:38	19
20	6:05	6:51	6:44	5:55	6:27	4:14	6:58	4:08	6:53	4:40	20
21	6:06	6:49	6:45	5:53	6:28	4:13	6:58	4:09	6:53	4:41	21
22	6:08	6:47	6:47	5:52	6:30	4:13	6:59	4:09	6:52	4:42	22
23	6:09	6:45	6:48	5:50	6:31	4:12	6:59	4:10	6:51	4:44	23
24	6:10	6:43	6:49	5:48	6:32	4:11	6:59	4:11	6:50	4:45	24
25	6:11	6:41	6:51	5:47	6:34	4:11	7:00	4:11	6:49	4:47	25
26	6:13	6:39	6:52	5:45	6:35	4:10	7:00	4:12	6:48	4:48	26
27	6:14★	6:37	6:54	5:44	6:36	4:09	7:00	4:13	6:47	4:50	27
28	6:15	6:35	6:55	5:42	6:37	4:09	7:01	4:14	6:46	4:51	28
29	6:16	6:33	6:56	5:41	6:39	4:08	7:01	4:14	6:45	4:52	29
30	6:18	6:31	6:58	5:39	6:40	4:08	7:01	4:15	6:44	4:54	30
31			6:59	5:38			7:01	4:16	6:42	4:55	31

★ Waterfowl hunting hours begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sept. 27 in the Northern Waterfowl Zone and at 9:00 a.m. on Oct. 4 in the Southern Waterfowl Zone. The 9:00 a.m. opener does not apply to woodcock or mourning dove hunting (for these species, opening day hours start at one-half hour before sunrise).

2008 Southern Waterfowl Hunting Hours—Zone A Table

	Sept. 2008		Oct. 2008		Nov. 2008		Dec. 2008		Jan. 2009		
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	Date
1	5:45	7:26	6:19	6:31	6:57	5:41	6:35	4:15	6:55	4:25	1
2	5:46	7:24	6:20	6:29	5:59	4:40	6:36	4:15	6:55	4:26	2
3	5:47	7:22	6:21	6:27	6:00	4:38	6:37	4:14	6:55	4:27	3
4	5:48	7:20	6:23 ★	6:26	6:01	4:37	6:38	4:14	6:55	4:28	4
5	5:49	7:18	6:24	6:24	6:03	4:36	6:39	4:14	6:55	4:29	5
6	5:51	7:17	6:25	6:22	6:04	4:35	6:40	4:14	6:55	4:30	6
7	5:52	7:15	6:26	6:20	6:05	4:33	6:41	4:14	6:54	4:31	7
8	5:53	7:13	6:27	6:19	6:07	4:32	6:42	4:14	6:54	4:32	8
9	5:54	7:11	6:29	6:17	6:08	4:31	6:43	4:14	6:54	4:33	9
10	5:55	7:09	6:30	6:15	6:09	4:30	6:44	4:14	6:54	4:34	10
11	5:56	7:08	6:31	6:13	6:11	4:29	6:45	4:14	6:53	4:35	11
12	5:57	7:06	6:32	6:12	6:12	4:28	6:46	4:14	6:53	4:36	12
13	5:58	7:04	6:33	6:10	6:13	4:27	6:47	4:14	6:52	4:37	13
14	6:00	7:02	6:35	6:08	6:15	4:26	6:47	4:14	6:52	4:39	14
15	6:01	7:00	6:36	6:07	6:16	4:25	6:48	4:15	6:51	4:40	15
16	6:02	6:58	6:37	6:05	6:17	4:24	6:49	4:15	6:51	4:41	16
17	6:03	6:57	6:38	6:03	6:18	4:23	6:49	4:15	6:50	4:42	17
18	6:04	6:55	6:40	6:02	6:20	4:22	6:50	4:16	6:50	4:44	18
19	6:05	6:53	6:41	6:00	6:21	4:22	6:51	4:16	6:49	4:45	19
20	6:06	6:51	6:42	5:59	6:22	4:21	6:51	4:16	6:48	4:46	20
21	6:08	6:49	6:43	5:57	6:23	4:20	6:52	4:17	6:48	4:47	21
22	6:09	6:47	6:45	5:55	6:25	4:19	6:52	4:17	6:47	4:49	22
23	6:10	6:46	6:46	5:54	6:26	4:19	6:53	4:18	6:46	4:50	23
24	6:11	6:44	6:47	5:52	6:27	4:18	6:53	4:19	6:45	4:51	24
25	6:12	6:42	6:48	5:51	6:28	4:17	6:53	4:19	6:44	4:53	25
26	6:13	6:40	6:50	5:49	6:30	4:17	6:54	4:20	6:43	4:54	26
27	6:14 ★	6:38	6:51	5:48	6:31	4:16	6:54	4:21	6:43	4:55	27
28	6:16	6:36	6:52	5:46	6:32	4:16	6:54	4:21	6:42	4:57	28
29	6:17	6:35	6:54	5:45	6:33	4:16	6:54	4:22	6:41	4:58	29
30	6:18	6:33	6:55	5:44	6:34	4:15	6:55	4:23	6:40	5:00	30
31			6:56	5:42			6:55	4:24	6:38	5:01	31

★ Waterfowl hunting hours begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sept. 27 in the Northern Waterfowl Zone and at 9:00 a.m. on Oct. 4 in the Southern Waterfowl Zone. The 9:00 a.m. opener does not apply to woodcock or mourning dove hunting (for these species, opening day hours start at one-half hour before sunrise).

DNR Service Centers

Office hours may vary by location. Please call ahead.

You may also call the DNR Call Center toll-free at
1-888-DNR INFO (1-888-936-7463)—local 608/266-2621.

Staff are available 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Txhais lus Hmoob thoj hu tus xovtooj 1-888-936-7463. Muaj txhais
lus Hmoob txhua hnuv, Monday txog Sunday, 7:00 sawv ntxov 10:00
tsaus ntuj.

El personal también está disponible para asistir a clientes de habla
hispana en nuestro número gratuito. El personal que habla español
está disponible 7 días a la semana a partir de la 7:00 de mañana hasta
10:00 P.M.

South Central Region

Fitchburg* 608-275-3266
Dodgeville 608-935-3368
Horicon 920-387-7860
Janesville 608-743-4800
Poynette 608-635-8110

Southeast Region

Milwaukee* 414-263-8500
Plymouth 920-892-8756
Sturtevant 262-884-2300
Waukesha 262-574-2100

West Central Region

Eau Claire* 715-839-3700
Baldwin 715-684-2914
Black River Falls... 715-284-1400
La Crosse 608-785-9000
Wausau 715-359-4522
Wisconsin Rapids 715-421-7800

Northern Region

Spooner* 715-635-2101
Antigo 715-627-4317
Ashland 715-685-2900
Cumberland 715-822-3590
Hayward 715-634-2688
Ladysmith 715-532-3911
Park Falls 715-762-3204
Rhineland 715-365-8900
Superior 715-392-7988
Woodruff 715-356-5211

Northeast Region

Green Bay* 920-662-5100
Oshkosh 920-424-3050
Peshtigo 715-582-5000
Sturgeon Bay 920-746-2860
Wautoma 920-787-4686

* Regional Headquarters

General mailing address:

Department of Natural Resources Central Office

Box 7921

Madison, WI 53707

dnr.wi.gov